

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

MEETING MINUTES OF

October 23, 2006

PRESENT: Berger, Bunker, Longley-Cook, Chair Cooney, Lord-Hausman, Vice-Chair Moore

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Fort, Kirola

GUESTS: Stefany Pittman, City Manager Debra Kurita

City Manager Debra Kurita introduced herself to the Commission, gave a background of her career and education, and thanked the Commissioners for volunteering their time. Chair Ed Cooney and the Commissioners then expressed their concerns, especially the lack of pedestrian access along the existing Oak Street sidewalk at the proposed parking garage site. The Commissioners suggested making Oak Street a one-way street or removal of parking on the west side temporarily in order to accommodate pedestrians adjacent to the construction site. The Secretary informed the Commission that traffic implications to the neighboring streets and turning restrictions onto Central Avenue and Santa Clara Avenue from Oak Street would need to be assessed. The Secretary informed the Commission that the City has hired a new Assistant Risk Manager, Lucretia Akil, who will also be the City's ADA coordinator and that their concerns should be presented to her.

MINUTES: The minutes of September 25, 2006 were approved with the following corrections: 1) New Business Item #3, Press Release - change "met" to "meet", and 2) New Business, Item #4, Alameda Hospital Health Fair, change "Commissioner's Adrienne Longley-Cook and Audrey Lord-Hausman will contact ..." to "Commissioner's Adrienne Longley-Cook and Toby Berger will staff the table at the event".

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Internet Service Rates and Speed.**

Tabled because interested Alameda resident Ms. Marylouise Lambert was not in attendance at the meeting.

2. **Audible Traffic Signals**

Tabled because interested Alameda resident Ms. Marylouise Lambert was not in attendance at the meeting.

3. **In-pavement Lights at Various Crosswalk Locations**

The proposed secretary discussed the in-pavement crosswalk light construction plans with

Commission. The proposed locations are: a) Park Street at Pacific Avenue, b) Park Street at Webb Avenue/Times Way, c) Park Street mid-street crosswalk between Santa Clara Avenue and Central, and d) Webster Street at Taylor Avenue. Commissioner Adrienne Longley-Cook asked why the locations selected for the inpavement lights were only along Park Street and Webster Street. In particular she questioned why locations at Shore Line Drive and Willow Street were not selected. The Secretary informed the Commission that the project is grant funded and that these locations cannot be changed. The Secretary will forward suggested location to staff for future consideration. Commissioner Audrey Lord-Hausman stated that the community needs to be better informed on the intent and purpose of the lighted crosswalks, that they should not be treated like a crosswalk at a traffic signal. A suggestion was made that AP&T CATV Channel 31 be used as an outreach and training aid. Commissioner Adrienne Longley-Cook stated that some of the lights at the Eighth Street/Portola Street lighted crosswalk are not working. The Secretary will inform Maintenance staff.

4. **Pedestrian Access during Construction of Parking Garage:**

See minutes under Guest above for comments of pedestrian access. Commissioner Adrienne Longley-Cook stated that pedestrians, including a large number of high school students, are walking in the middle of Oak Street and not using the open west side sidewalk. Motion carried to recommend that temporary access be provided for safe access on the east side of Oak Street.

OLD BUSINESS:

5. **Cineplex Theater:**

The Secretary reviewed the Cineplex building plans with the Commission. Most of the eleven suggestions by the Commission's October 24, 2005 have been included in the design. Commissioner Charles Bunker was still concerned that disabled seating locations were too close to the screen. The Secretary informed Mr. Bunker that these locations are the standard locations for a stadium seating style Cineplex. Commissioner Adrienne Longley-Cook stated that there was an insufficient number of assisted living devices provided for each auditorium. The Secretary will contact the architect to discuss how the numbers of assisted living devices was determined. The Secretary assumes that they conform to ADA standards.

6. **Alameda Hospital Health Fair:**

Commission will have a table at the fair.

7. **Alameda Youth Collaborative:**

Commissioner Adrienne Longley-Cook informed the Commission about the Collaborative questionnaire informational slip which will be included in the Collaborative 10th year time capsule. The Commission moved that the following information will be provided in the time capsule: 1) Name – Commission on Disability Issues; 2) Size – The number will be based on the 1996 census report, 10,000 disabled and 2006 census report, 12,500; 3) Benefits – informing various City and Civic groups on the needs of the disabled community. Making groups and agencies aware of accessibility needs to all public events; and 4) include photos of the City Hall parking lot ramp and the Park Street/Santa Clara Avenue intersection countdown pedestrian signal.

8. **Press Release:**

Chair Ed Cooney reviewed the October Disability Awareness month press release. Commission approved without corrections.

9. **Assembly Bill 1234 -Ethics Training:** (Secretary)

The Commission moved for a special meeting on November 13th at 7:30 p.m. to take the ethics training and exam. Secretary to reserve City Hall Room 360.

10. **Status of Accommodation Recommendations:**

Tabled. Policy recommendations to be part of Assistant Risk Manager/ADA coordinator's transition plan.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS: None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Vice-Chair Jody Moore would like to have the Albany School District Superintendent address the Commission at a future meeting on the districts blue ribbon Commission on Autism.
2. Commissioner Adrienne Longley-Cook informed the Commission that the Santa Clara Convention Center will be hosting its annual Disability Exposition on November 3-5th.
3. Commission Audrey Lord-Hausman stated that she will be attending a luncheon given by the International Council of Shopping Centers that will include a guest speaker on 'Changes in ADA'.

4. Commissioner Charles Bunker informed the Commission; a) that the shrubs that were protruding into the pedestrian/bike path along Constitution Way have been trimmed, and b) the Red Cross will be meeting this Tuesday on the Disaster Registry program.
5. Commissioner Toby Berger informed the Commission that Disability Sports USA has opened a baseball field, which was made possible through many contributions. The information will be forwarded to Ms. Roberta Rockwell via Audrey Lord-Hausman.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, November 27th, 2006 in Room 360, City Hall. A special meeting for ethics training will be held on November 13th, room to be determined.

Matthew T. Naclerio
Public Works Director

Ed Sommerauer
Associate Civil Engineer

ES:lc